

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

*Dab*  
*1/17*

1-24. (Canceled)

1        25. (currently amended) A method of making a circular  
2        blade for cutting a moving material web, the blade having a steel  
3        cutting edge, the method comprising the step of:  
4                 coating a surface of the cutting edge by means of plasma  
5        with foreign ions to a depth between 50  $\mu\text{m}$  and 500  $\mu\text{m}$ .

1        26. (previously presented) The blade making method  
2        defined in claim 25 wherein the depth is between 100  $\mu\text{m}$  and 200  $\mu\text{m}$ .

1        27. (previously presented) The blade making method  
2        defined in claim 25, further comprising the step of  
3                 imparting to the cutting edge a hardness of 800 HV to  
4        1300 HV without impairing its ductility.

1        28. (previously presented) The blade making method  
2        defined in claim 27 wherein the hardness is between 900 HV and 1200  
3        HV.

1           29. (previously presented) The blade making method  
2       defined in claim 25 wherein at least the cutting edge is formed of  
3       a heat-treated steel, a high-speed steel or a tool steel.

1           30. (previously presented) The blade making method  
2       defined in claim 25 wherein the entire blade is formed of a heat-  
3       treated steel, a high-speed steel, or a tool steel.

1           31. (previously presented) The blade making method  
2       defined in claim 25 wherein the foreign ions are of nitrogen,  
3       carbon, molybdenum, tungsten, and/or molybdenum.

1           32. (previously presented) The blade making method  
2       defined in claim 31 wherein a portion of the molybdenum or tungsten  
3       ions in the foreign ions is greater than a portion of titanium  
4       ions.